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NEWS RELEASE

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9 DUI Checkpoints and 50 Patrols set for Weekend as National Impaired Driving Crackdown Begins

Dover – If you plan to go out drinking this weekend...consider yourself warned. Police officers throughout Delaware will blanket the state with a combination of 9 sobriety checkpoints and 50 DUI saturation patrols this weekend as they join hundreds of law enforcement agencies across the country for the launch of the National Impaired Driving Crackdown: *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* The enforcement activities are coordinated locally by the Office of Highway Safety, and are part of its Safe Family Holiday (SFH) Campaign. The SFH Campaign and the National Crackdown will continue through New Year's Eve.

“Law enforcement agencies and highway safety offices across the nation are partnering to present a unified message. Our goal, no matter where you go this holiday season, is to keep impaired drivers off the road through the use of high visibility enforcement,” said Tricia Roberts, Director of the Office of Highway Safety. “Drinking and driving is a crime, and far too many people continue to suffer tragic injuries and the loss of a loved one as a result of it.”

The following checkpoints are scheduled for the weekend of Dec. 12th & 13th:

Friday Dec. 12th - Newport - NcCo DUI Task Force
Seafood – Seaford/Laurel PD’s joint checkpoint
Milford – Milford PD
Eastern/Central Sussex County – DSP Troop 4
Rehoboth/Millsboro – DSP Troop 7

Saturday Dec. 13th - Georgetown – Georgetown PD
 Rehoboth Beach – Rehoboth Beach PD
 Dover – Dover Police
 North of Wilmington – DSP Troop 1

Last weekend (Dec. 5th & 6th) thirty (30) people were arrested for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs. Nineteen (19) of the arrests came from two sobriety checkpoints. While arresting a man wanted on charges in Maryland, officers at the NcCo DUI Task Force checkpoint in Newark recovered a weapon – a large “swordlike” knife – from under the front seat. Troopers at the Delaware State Police Troop 3 checkpoint near Woodside charged one woman with not only DUI but also endangering the welfare of the children with her, who were in the backseat and holding a case of beer with an open container in it. The checkpoints also resulted in 17 drug arrests, 11 felony arrests, 4 underage drinking citations and the apprehension of 7 wanted individuals.

The remaining 11 DUI arrests, as well as 7 seat belt citations, and 148 citations for other traffic violations came from DUI saturation patrols conducted by 12 State and Local law enforcement agencies.

In addition to the DUI arrests, six (6) individuals were injured in alcohol-related crashes statewide. This means that six more green light bulbs will be added to the DUI Victim’s Trees located at the DMV offices statewide, and brings the total of alcohol-related injuries in the State since Thanksgiving to 18.

The 10th annual Safe Family Holiday campaign runs from Thanksgiving through New Year’s Eve and involves a combination of high visibility enforcement efforts and public awareness activities. For campaign updates please visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the Safe Family Holiday campaign icon in the center of the page.

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